Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph 0019 as follows:

[0019] Block 103 provides for determining whether to abort the stateless routing. The determination at block 103 can be made based on a number of factors such as latency and priority. For example, if a timeout occurs after forwarding the incoming data toward the destination host, it may be determined that stateless routing should be aborted. It should also be noted that the determination at block 103 can be made more than once for a given destination host. If it is determined at block 103 that stateless routing should be continued, block 105 provides for receiving confirmation of delivery of the incoming data from either the destination host or a downstream router. Confirmation of receipt of the incoming data is sent toward the sender of the incoming data at block 107. Accordingly, as illustrated in Figure 2, when incoming data is stored in volatile memory (step 104) and the decision is made to employ stateless routing ("Y" path out of decision step 106) and to maintain the performance of stateless routing ("N" path out of decision step 103), then the incoming data is stored only in volatile memory. If it is determined at block 103 that stateless routing should be aborted, block 109 provides for storing the incoming data in NVM and receiving the confirmation of delivery at block 105 is bypassed.